

WATH-UPON-DEARNE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1955

WATH-UPON-DEARNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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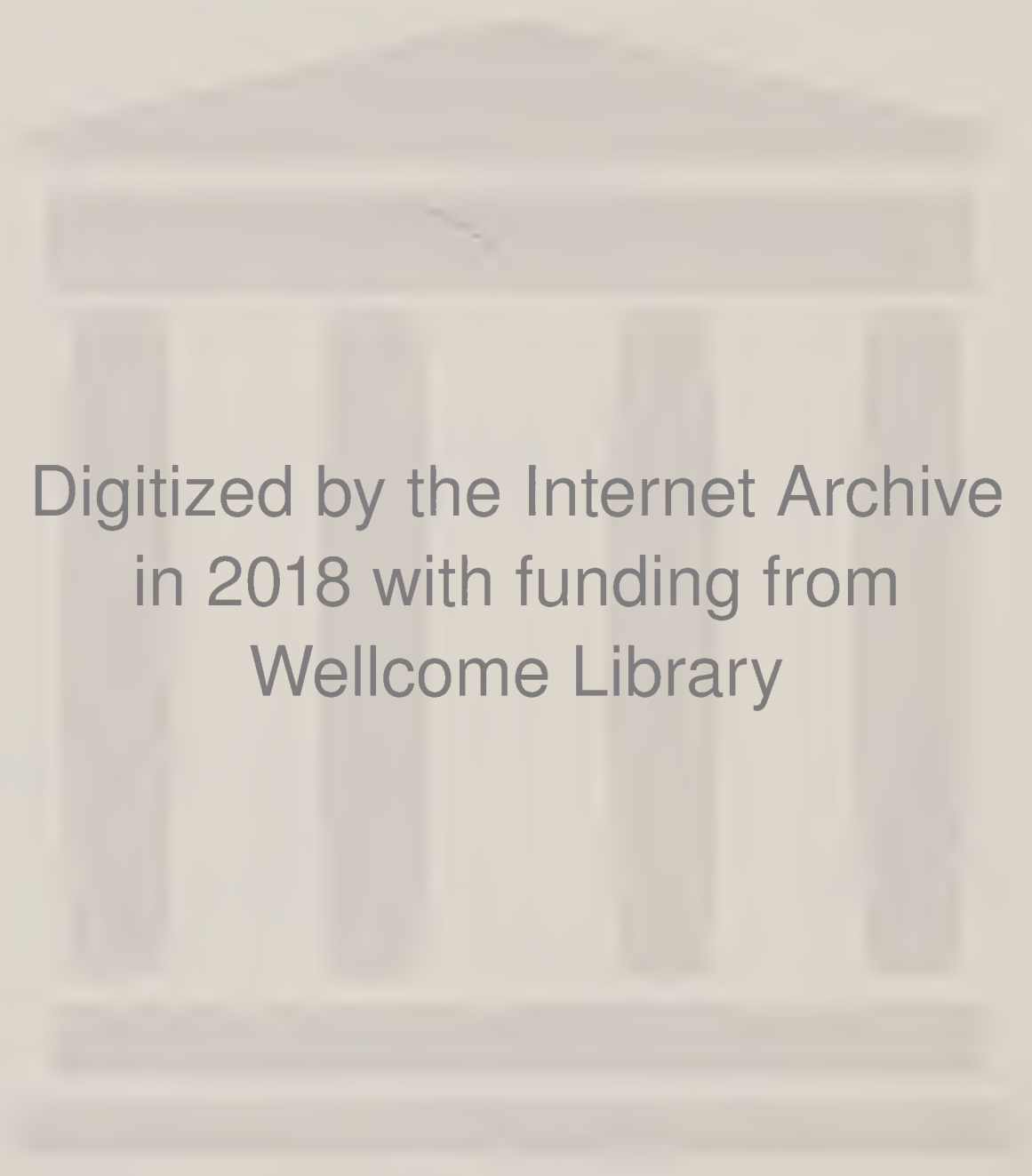
A. DEARDEN

Medical Officer of Health :

D. J. CUSITER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M., and H.

Sanitary Inspector :

W. W. WILKINSON, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.



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WATH-UPON-DEARNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955

Public Health Department,
Dunford House,
Doncaster Road,
Wath-upon-Dearne.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wath-upon-Dearne Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present to you the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1955.

There was an outbreak of measles, but fortunately this was confined to three months March, April, and May. The majority of the cases were mild in character and the complication rate was low. There were six cases of Poliomyelitis notified—in one case only was the remaining paralysis of a severe nature. There was a low incidence of other infectious disease.

There were only two infant deaths giving an infant mortality rate of 8 per 1000 compared with a national rate of 24.9. This is the second lowest infant mortality ever recorded in Wath ; the lowest being 7 per 1000 in 1952.

Twelve fresh cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified ; four of them being under 15 years of age and half of them under 35 years of age. Concentrated effort is made to have all contacts of fresh cases X-rayed and special attention is devoted to adolescent contacts and young children. There is no delay in obtaining sanatorium or hospital treatment. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis but four males died from lung cancer.

The Sanitary Inspector in his report has mentioned the successful course of lectures on food hygiene which we gave in co-operation with the Rockingham Institute of Further Education. In addition to this he made no less than 628 visits to food premises, canteens, bakehouses, slaughter houses and places where food is stored or sold. Samples of milk, imitation cream, water, swimming bath water and ice cream are regularly obtained and tested at the Public Health Laboratory in Wakefield. All locally slaughtered meat is inspected by your Sanitary Inspector. A considerable part of his work has been in ensuring repairs and maintenance are carried out to some of the older property in the district.

This combined work is all carried out with the intention of improving the health of the citizens of the district and when our vital statistics are examined, it will be seen that they are most satisfactory for an industrial area.

I thank the Council for supporting our efforts and Mr. Wilkinson, the Sanitary Inspector, and all who have assisted in the work of the department.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. CUSITER, *Medical Officer of Health.*

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF WATH-UPON-DEARNE URBAN DISTRICT.

Area (in acres)	2,665
Population (Census, 1951)	13,928
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, mid 1955	14,040
Natural Increase of Population in 1955	105
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census, 1931)	3,375
Number of Inhabited Houses (31st December, 1955) ..	4,625
Nett Product of a Penny Rate	£237 3 6
Rateable Value	£62,047
Height above Sea Level	70-325 ft.
Rainfall for Year	19.82 ins.

The major industry is coal mining and the extraction of by-products from coal. Considerable extensions to the by-products plant are in course of erection at Manvers Main ; there is a surplus of female labour in the district and the Council have given every encouragement to attract suitable industry so that this labour force could be employed within the district. The year was remarkable for its long periods of sunshine and drought, the total rainfall being only 19.82 inches.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955.

	1955	1954	Eng. & Wales 1955
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population :			
Crude	17.74	16.82	15.0
Adjusted	17.04	16.15	*
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 population ..	0.49	0.43	*
Death Rate per 1,000 population :			
Crude	00 00	00 00	00 00
Adjusted	10.26	10.76	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	8.03	29.66	24.9
Neo-Natal Death Rate per 1,000 live births	8.03	16.95	17.3
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	Nil	Nil	0.64

* Figures not available.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955 IN DETAIL.

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births : Legitimate	112	131	243
Illegitimate	3	3	6
Total Live Births			249
Stillbirths :	2	5	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year :			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths (all ages)	86	58	144

Stillbirths :

Rate per 1,000 births (live and still) ..	27.34
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Comparability Factors :

Births	0.96
Deaths	1.12

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still)
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Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis ..	Nil	—
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	8.03
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	8.23
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	Nil
Neo-Natal Death Rate	8.03

Causes of Death in 1955.

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	—	—
2. Tuberculosis (Other)	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	—	—
10. Cancer of Stomach	4	6
11. Cancer of Bronchus or Lungs	4	—
12. Cancer of Breast	—	2
13. Cancer of Uterus	—	—
14. Other Cancer or Lymphatic Cancer ..	5	3
15. Leukaemia or Aleukaemia	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	12	7
18. Coronary disease or Angina	13	7
19. Hypertension with Heart disease ..	1	—
20. Other Heart disease	16	13
21. Other Circulatory disease	1	5
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	4	—
24. Bronchitis	7	3
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	3	—
26. Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	2	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis or Diarrhoea ..	1	—
28. Nephritis or Nephrosis	—	1
29. Enlarged Prostate	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, or abortion ..	—	—
31. Congenital malformation	—	—
32. Other defined or ill-defined diseases ..	5	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1

34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	6	1
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war			..	—	—
					—	—
	Totals	..	..	..	86	58
					—	—

There were no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis the majority of the deaths being due to diseases of the heart, blood vessels, strokes, and malignant disease. These are complaints commonly met with in older people.

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age :

	<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Died at</i>
1.	Cerebral Haemorrhage, Tentorial Tear, Prematurity and Atelectasis	2 days	Hospital
2	Acute Pneumonia and Bilateral Otitis Media	3 weeks	Home

There were only two infants deaths ; one due to an accident of birth and the other to infection. This low number of infant deaths has only occurred once before in 1952. The infant mortality rate of 8 per 1,000 is lower than the national rate of 24.9 and the County rate of 26.2. This rate a remarkably low one for an industrial area is not attained solely by having medical attention when a child is born or when the child falls ill ; all the instruction given to the mothers at relaxation clinics, child welfare centres, home visiting, family doctors advice and care, and the hospital services, play their part in the picture. Without good housing good nutrition and a high standard of care given by the mothers of the children we would have a different story to record. Health is a complex matter but all should be encouraged by these figures which show solid progress.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital Services.

These have been augmented by the addition of 12 beds for the care of Tuberculosis at the Mexborough Montagu Hospital. These were made available from September and it is hoped to gradually build the number up to 25 beds. The Sanatorium at Wath Wood Hospital is now working to capacity and the full scale of treatment can now be given at the hospital including major chest surgery.

Ambulance Service.

The County Ambulance Service operate a depot at Dunford House where six vehicles are based. Three vehicles are equipped with wireless combined receivers and transmitters. Wireless messages are used for calling up vehicles whilst out on call. The drivers are instructed in first aid and all vehicles carry a wide range of emergency first aid equipment.

Miles patients carried	..	..	..	..	..	166,723
Number of Patients :	Males	..	..	..	..	16,037
	Females	..	..	..	..	16,202
	Total	..	..	..	..	32,239

The Depot Superintendent is Mr. F. Hyde who controls the depot.

All requests for the use of the Ambulance Service must be authorised by a doctor or hospital or midwife except in cases of emergency, i.e., accidents or maternity cases and sudden grave illness. The telephone number is Wath-upon-Dearne 2234. Close liaison is maintained between the Ambulance Service and the Medical Service.

Infectious Diseases by Wards.

Ward	Whoop- ing Cough	Measles	Puer- peral Pyrexia	Erysi- pelas	Scarlet Fever	Dysen- tery	Polio - myelitis	Food Poison- ing	Pneu- monia
Central ..	7	46	2	1	16	—	2	—	—
Melton ..	2	54	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
East ..	7	6	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Winterwell	—	13	1	—	—	2	1	—	2
Wharncliffe	2	16	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Totals ..	18	138	4	2	17	4	6	1	2

Measles.

This virus infection was prevalent in March, April and May, and a minority of the cases were severe in type. The complications of measles can be more dangerous than the infection—hence it is prudent to summon the family Doctor and not to treat the illness as of little importance. Complications if discovered early enough can be treated more effectively than at a later stage.

Poliomyelitis.

There were six notifications—part of an outbreak affecting the Barnsley area and the Valley towns of Wombwell, Wath, Swinton and Mexborough. There was only one case in Rawmarsh. It is a fact that outbreaks of infectious disease tend to follow the route Barnsley, Wath, Doncaster, rather than Sheffield, Rotherham, Rawmarsh and this may be because the first route is the more commonly used shopping and business line of communication. Four of the cases were notified as paralytic and two as non paralytic. Two were female cases aged 20 and the remainder were male aged 3 years (2), 5 years and 30 years. All the cases were admitted to Kendray Isolation Hospital where an expert team was responsible for medical care. Two of the cases were discharged cured with no paralysis. Three with paralysis of moderate to slight degree and one with severe paralysis in one leg. All the latter cases had follow on treatment of physiotherapy and care from the Orthopaedic surgeon.

Each case was investigated by the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health and appropriate measures were put in force. The Swimming Baths were not closed during the outbreak. The Baths have a modern continuous filtration and chlorination plant installed and the water is regularly sampled by the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield.

Tuberculosis.**Number on Register at 31st December, 1955.**

				Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	..	..	..	35	23	58
Non-Pulmonary	..	..	..	6	4	10

Number removed from Register during 1955.

				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
				Males	Females	Males	Females	
Deaths	..	..	..	—	1	—	1	2
Others (Cured, re-diagnosed, transfers, etc.)	..			7	2	1	2	12
Totals	..			7	3	1	3	14

Additions to Register during 1955.

				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
				Males	Females	Males	Females	
New notifications	..			9	3	—	2	14
Others (restored, transfers in, etc.)	..	..		—	2	—	—	2
Totals	..			9	5	—	2	16

New Notifications—Pulmonary.

Age Groups						Males	Females
0—5 years	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
5—15 years	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
15—25 years	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
25—35 years	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
35—45 years	..	..	..	..	..	5	—
45—70 years	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	9	3

	1955	1954	1955
	Wath	Wath	Eng. and Wales
Tuberculosis Death Rate	Nil	0.07	0.15

Tuberculosis.

There were twelve new cases notified. Patients are admitted to Sanatoria at Wath Wood, Crookhill Hall, Oakwood or Mexborough Montagu Hospital. Some patients travel further away from the district for treatment. There is no delay in obtaining accommodation. Some cases, selected by the Chest Physician, are treated at home and treatment is carried out in co-operation with the Family Doctor and District Nurse. One of the Health Visitors from Dunford House and another from Swinton regularly visit either Wath Wood or the Chest Clinic at Mexborough to

maintain contact with the Chest Physician and to deal with patients personal problems. A wide range of nursing equipment including beds and bed linen may be supplied by the County for isolation and segregation purposes within the patients own home. Extra nourishment can be made available for active cases of tuberculosis. The present scheme is working smoothly.

Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948.

This provides for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No action was taken in the district during 1955.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and Housing.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Extensions to existing sewers were constructed at West Melton Housing Estate and for private housing on the Racecourse.

Water Supply.

The district is supplied by water filtered and chlorinated. The water is of highest bacterial purity at source (bore holes) and is a hard water. It is sampled bacteriologically every month and chemically once a quarter. All samples were satisfactory.

Housing.

A total of 52 houses were erected for the Urban District Council and 15 by private owners. One house was demolished and 1 closed under a closure order. It was not found possible to commence slum clearance.

Smoke Abatement.

Considerable nuisance from smoke took place at the chimney from No. 3 boiler plant, Manvers Main. This was greatly reduced when the electrification of No. 3 winding engine took place thus reducing the load on the steam raising plant. A high proportion of the smoke pollution in the district comes from domestic chimneys. This will only be remedied when smokeless fuel is freely available and it is made possible for miners to claim this in lieu of concessionary coal. Smokeless zones and clean air can be achieved without doing away with open fires, a traditional method of heating in mining areas, provided smokeless fuel is used.

Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000, 1948 to 1955

KEY

— Divison 26

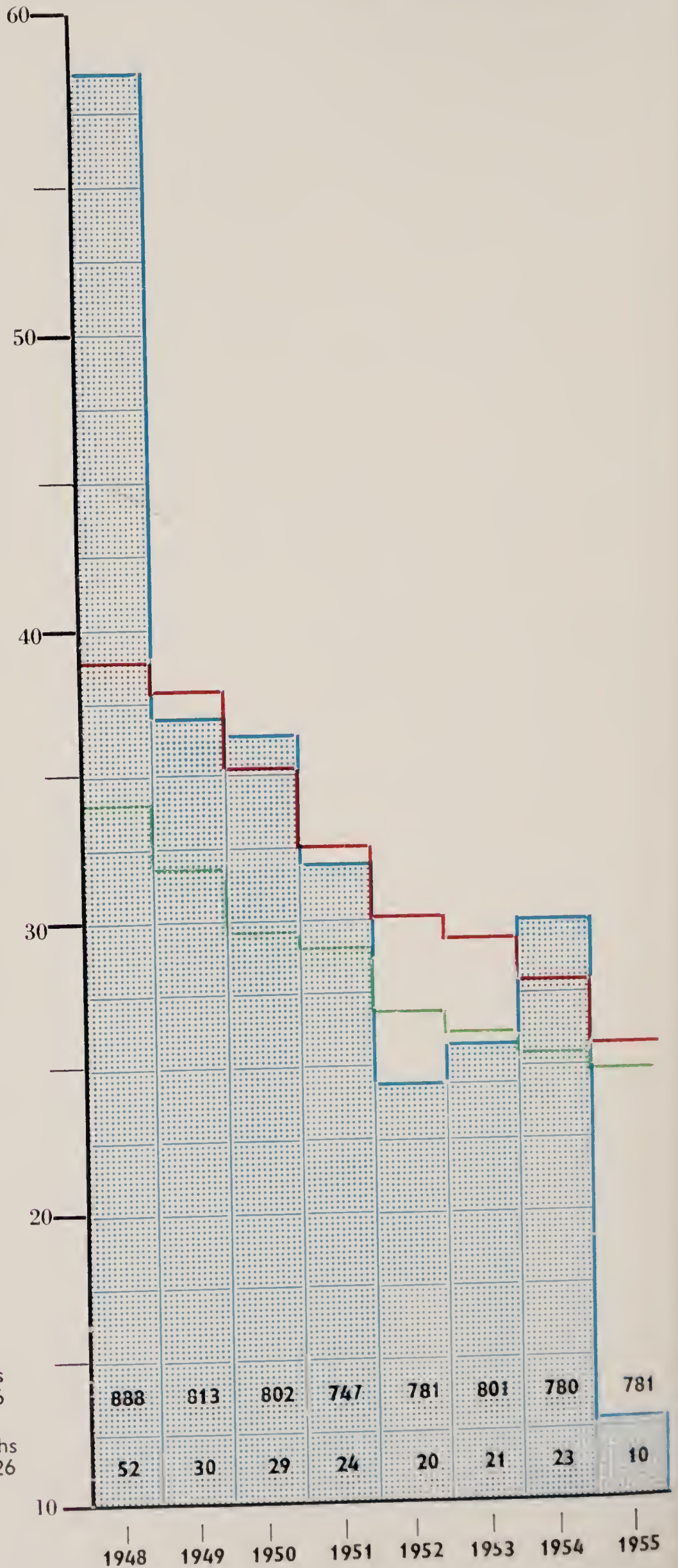
— W.R.C.C.

— England & Wales

INFANT MORTALITY per 1,000

No. of Live Births
Division 26

No. of Infant Deaths
Division 26



PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES—DIVISION 26.

(Swinton, Rawmarsh and Wath upon Dearne Urban Districts).

Summary of Vital Statistics for 1954 and 1955 for Division 26.

	1955	1954
Area of Division	7,990	acres
Estimated Population	45,250	
Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population) ..	17.1	17.24
Death Rates (per 1,000 estimated population) :		
All Causes	10.6	10.65
Cancer	1.68	1.66
Heart and Circulatory	4.22	4.42
Infective and parasitic diseases, excluding T.B.	0.07	0.11
Respiratory Diseases	1.22	0.97
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.07	0.11
Other Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil
All Tuberculosis	0.07	0.11
Maternal Mortality	1.25	Nil
Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 live births) ..	12.8	29.45

Comparative Table of Vital Statistics for Urban and Rural Districts in the West Riding and England and Wales for 1955.

	Live Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infective and Parasitic Dis's. excluding T.B. Death Rate	Respiratory Diseases Death Rate	Heart and Circulatory Diseases	Cancer	Tuberculosis Death Rate All Forms	Infant Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality
Division 26 ..	17.1	10.6	0.07	1.22	4.22	1.68	0.07	12.8	1.25
U.D.'s in West Riding	14.8	12.5	0.06	1.28	4.71	2.03	0.13	25.2	0.45
R.D.'s in West Riding	16.6	9.6	0.07	1.03	3.55	1.54	0.10	28.6	1.19
Administrative County ..	15.3	11.7	0.07	1.21	4.39	1.90	0.12	26.2	0.67
England and Wales ..	15.0	11.7	*	*	*	2.06	0.15	24.9	0.64

* Figures not available.

All Figures per 1,000 population except last two columns.

As previously noted in the Swinton report there was one maternal death in the Division due to a complication arising after childbirth. The infant mortality rate is the lowest ever recorded in the division and in fact is the lowest of all the Health Divisions in the West Riding. Put simply this means that fewer children under the age of one year died in the division than in any previous year—the rate being half the national

rate. This is a remarkable happening and is some significant reward for the amount of care given to young mothers and children in post war times. It is all the more praiseworthy when we realise that it is associated with a higher than national birth rate and that the division is situated in an area of mining and heavy industry. Many may take the narrow view that the survival of an infant depends on having medical attention at the birth of the child and subsequently if the child is sick—nothing could be further from the truth. High rates of survival entail adequate housing with the elimination of slums and overcrowded conditions—both deadly enemies of little children ; good feeding with the emphasis on the quality of the food, not on quantity, and efficient ante-natal care of the mother from early in pregnancy with later regular supervision of the healthy infant. Grandmothers sometimes tell young mothers they had none of these things and managed very well. They tend to forget how many little children were lost in infancy.

The vital statistics for other causes of death compare favourably with both the County and National Statistics.

Home Nursing Service.

The staff consists of 7 full-time nurses and 3 part-time.

	No. of Cases Assisted				Visits
1955	1,056	..	30,617
1954	1,211	..	30,008
1953	1,034	..	25,348

Home Nurses may attend any person who is in need of nursing care at the request of the Family Doctor who is looking after the patient. The service includes the care of those suffering from acute illness, chronic illness, cases of tuberculosis treated at home and general care in case of the aged infirm.

Anything required for nursing the sick at home can be supplied either direct from Dunford House or from the County Pool of Nursing Equipment. All articles are supplied free, on loan, and are returned to store when no longer required. Hospital beds, fracture beds, rubber sheeting, dunlopillo mattresses, bed pans, back rests, walking aids, rest chairs for arthritic patients and wheel chairs for convalescents are supplied as required.

The difficulty in maintaining the service is due to lack of staff and the inevitable increase in work that this means for the staff remaining. This difficulty was most acute in Swinton where shortage of staff was aggravated by absences due to sickness. In spite of this the total number of visits made was in excess of the previous year. In the Autumn Nurse M. Linegar retired after many years' loyal service in the Swinton Area, leaving a permanent vacancy which was unfilled at the end of the year in spite of repeated advertisement.

Infant Welfare and Health Visiting Service.

Centre	Doctor in Charge	No. of individual children who attended during the year	Total No. of attendances made by children in previous column during the year	
			Under 1 yr. of age	Over 1 yr. of age
Wath	Dr. M. Lister	377	1574	469
West Melton ..	Dr. M. Lister	198	1151	288
Swinton	Dr. I Campbell	288	2453	738
Kilnhurst	Dr. J. Core ..	93	777	345
Rawmarsh	Dr. J. Core	340	1314	328
Parkgate	Dr. M. R. Menzies	91	466	120
Totals		1387	7735	2288

No. of Home Visits made by Health Visitors within the Division during the year :

	First Visits	Total Visits
Expectant Mothers	80	231
Children under 1 year	732	4671
Children between 1 and 5	*	8458
Other cases	*	6073
Totals	812	19433

* Figures not available.

Nine Health Visitors are employed in the Division. All have the combined qualification of Nurse and Midwife and in addition have attended a years training at college before qualifying as a Health Visitor. They are also employed as School Nurses so that one person fills the dual role.

The present role of the Health Visitor includes responsibility for advising the whole family in Health matters. Their work is no longer confined to the care of mothers and children only. The Health Visitor must work in close contact with the Family Doctor, and every effort has been made to increase co-operation where this has been found to be unsatisfactory.

The Health Visitors attend all the Infant Welfare Centres and advise the mothers on the infants diet, clothing, exercise, etc. They follow the progress of all premature babies until a satisfactory standard of physical development has been attained as the premature infant is more prone to ill health in the first few weeks of life. They visit the homes of the mothers when the mothers are unable to attend the Centres. They advise on immunisation procedure and vaccination against smallpox and arrange for this to be performed by the Doctors at the Infant Welfare Centre or by the Family Doctor.

From time to time they are asked to prepare reports on the progress of children by the Child Health Specialist or by Hospital Physicians or Surgeons who have had sick children under their care. They visit all

homes including those of substandard families and can often be of assistance in obtaining improvement in the physical care of the children in such families, who may suffer neglect due to the indifference of their parents to the daily needs of young children.

The Health Visitor also supervises the Home Help Service and visits when possible all the aged people in her district who may be living alone and in need of a little friendly assistance from time to time. They assist the aged in obtaining assistance from many official sources, e.g., the National Assistance Board, the Welfare Officer, Nursing Association (in Swinton) or from the Aged Peoples Welfare Committees in the whole of the Division. As Nurses they attend all the special clinics including Eye Clinics, Ear, Nose and Throat, Orthopaedic, Ante-Natal and the special Clinics organised by the School Medical Service to follow up the health of those children who are handicapped or suffering from ill health. Two of the Health Visitors attend at Wath Wood Tuberculosis Hospital and the Chest Clinic Out Patients at Mexborough to maintain contact between patients, the Medical Officer of Health and the Chest Physician and to assist the patients in any matters of domestic difficulty brought about by their illness. They also report to the Divisional Medical Officer any children under school age who may be in need of special educational treatment due to blindness, deafness, mental backwardness or physical disability. In some of these conditions it is essential that education should begin at a very early age ; hence the need for early reporting.

Hospital medical staff require knowledge from time to time about the home circumstances of a patient particularly when about to discharge a handicapped person or an aged and infirm patient. The Health Visitor is responsible for supplying such reports to the Divisional Medical Officer.

Maternity Services.

BIRTHS.

				Domiciliary	Institutional	Proportion of Domiciliary to Institutional
Wath ..	..	..	..	153	103	8 : 5
Swinton	..	..	..	117	78	3 : 2
Rawmarsh	..	..	..	191	159	5 : 4

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Clinic	Doctor in Charge	No. of women who attended	No. of women who attended for blood exam. only	Total No. of attendances made by women
Wath ..	Dr. D. Chapman	67	60	493
Swinton ..	Dr. H. H. Smith	139	—	651
Rawmarsh ..	Dr. M. Scott	227	—	882
Totals ..		433	60	2026

POST NATAL CLINICS.

(Held jointly with Ante-Natal Clinics).

Clinic	Doctor in Charge	Number of women who attended	Total No. of attendances made by women
Wath	Dr. D. Chapman	21	22
Swinton	Dr. H. H. Smith	36	38
Rawmarsh	Dr. M. Scott	30	32
Totals		87	92

RELAXATION CLASSES.

Clinic	Officer in Charge	Number of women who attended	Total No. of attendances made by women
Swinton	Midwife F. Launders	43	260
Wath	Midwife M. Barber	108	1007
*Rawmarsh	Midwife L. Bamford	6	25

* Commenced 27/10/55.

There was one maternal death in the Division, the first for three years. This was due to a condition associated with the puerperium.

The staff of the Midwifery service consists of 9 Midwives and 1 relief. 461 mothers were confined at home or 59% of all confinements in the division. In 422 cases the Midwife in attendance delivered the patient without the assistance of the Family Doctor. Ante-Natal Clinics are held at Wath upon Dearne, Swinton and Rawmarsh and Family Doctors are notified of the attendance of mothers at these Clinics and of any abnormalities that ensue. Complete blood investigation is carried out at the clinics, as failure to do this may mean subsequent delay of a blood transfusion if necessary for the mother or baby and although this is seldom required, when it is required it is usually a matter of some urgency. Similarly mothers with certain types of blood may lose their babies unnecessarily if the blood has not been checked for Rhesus antibodies.

It is in the interest of the mother and her unborn child to book a Family Doctor and a Midwife early in pregnancy. There is a tendency to book later in pregnancy, and some times in advanced pregnancy. This can only have the effect of lowering the standard of Ante-Natal care and eventually will have unhappy consequences for the mother and child in some cases. If Ante-Natal care is to be of value in safeguarding the health of the mother and child it must be commenced early in pregnancy and be continued until term.

Where mothers do not attend an Ante-Natal Clinic and are to be delivered at home it is the duty of the midwife to visit them in their homes. It is essential that the Midwife and mother get to know each

other well ; the Midwife must keep in direct contact with the Family Doctor. When Mothers are admitted to hospital in labour or in advanced pregnancy it is wise for the Midwife to accompany the case to hospital and this is arranged when it is possible.

All mothers are trained in the use of Gas and Air and Pethidine—substances used for analgesia in childbirth. The Midwives regularly attend Refresher Courses at major centres of midwifery so that they are kept up to date—two of the Midwives attended such courses during the year.

The success of the relaxation classes held at Swinton and Wath and commencing in Rawmarsh has been encouraging. The instruction is primarily intended for mothers expecting their first baby and they are advised about the process of childbirth and taught how to assist this during delivery. The Midwives instructing have been trained for this work. These classes are conducted for all mothers whether they attend Ante-Natal Clinics or not and include the care of the new born child and the mother's diet in pregnancy, both vital factors for healthy babies and mothers.

PREMATURE BIRTHS.

District	Born Alive			Still-born			No. Rem. to Hosp. after Birth	No. who survived 28 days		
	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total		At Home	In Hosp.	Total
Wath	12	6	18	2	3	5	1	11	6	17
Swinton ..	5	5	10	—	3	3	1	5	4	9
Rawmarsh ..	7	19	26	2	4	6	1	6	15	21
Totals ..	24	30	54	4	10	14	3	22	25	47

There were 54 premature births of which 47 were surviving at the end of one month. Thus out of the 10 infant deaths in the whole division 7 were due to prematurity or its associated defects. Prematurity is the main cause of infant mortality and can only be prevented by adequate Ante-Natal care and by good nutrition of the mother and good living conditions. In some cases of prematurity the cause is imperfectly understood but in mothers in the Registrar General's higher social groups it is very rare.

Care of the Unmarried Mother and her Child.

There were 27 illegitimate births in the division. 24 of these came to our notice. In 22 cases the mother kept the baby—this is the best solution if it is possible to do so. In 1 case the infant was adopted. Special care is devoted to this section of the community as they tend to avoid ante-natal supervision and they require sympathetic assistance. Miss Spooner, a Voluntary Welfare Worker of the Church of England, assists these cases irrespective of religion and advice and accommodation is arranged for the confinement by the Health Committee of the County Council.

Welfare Foods.

The foods concerned are National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and Vitamin A and D Tablets. These are sold at Dunford House and Infant Welfare Centres throughout the Health Division by clerical staff and not by Nurses who are more suitably employed in dealing with any questions the mother may have concerning infant welfare.

Domestic Help Service.

Establishment of Domestic Helps 24 Full time
 No. of Domestic Helps employed 62 Part time
 Cases provided with Domestic Help during the year
 ended 31st December, 1955 :

						No. of Cases	Hours	
1.	Maternity (including expectant mothers)					..	73	6009
2.	Tuberculosis .. .. .					..	2	266
3.	Chronic sick (a) Aged 65+					..	284	45795
	(b) Under 65 .. .. .					..	6	3570
4.	Others .. .. .					..	13	1494
							<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals .. .. .						..	378	57134
							<hr/>	<hr/>
						1953	1954	1955
Average No. of staff (part-time) ..						47	52	62
Total Hours						39,399	48,790	57,134

Domestic Helps are required where assistance is necessary in running the home owing to illness or old age or a home confinement ; or some other circumstances. The demand increases yearly. The service is not free and every case is assessed by the Divisional Welfare Officer. In point of fact Most Old Age Pensioners do not contribute to the cost of the Service. The establishment of home helps is a definite one and the amount of assistance given to any one case depends on the total demands on the service. If someone needs more assistance someone else has to suffer a reduction. The service is supervised by the Health Visitors and is a most valuable service as it reduces the demand for County Home Accommodation for the aged and in association with the Home Nursing service reduces the demand for hospital beds for the chronic sick.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

Mentally Defective Persons.

	Division No. 26
1. (a) Total No.	121
(b) No. ascertained during 1954	4
2. (a) No. under Guardianship	2
(b) No. under Statutory Supervision	99
(c) No. under Voluntary Supervision or Observation	15
(d) No. on licence from Institutions	2
3. (a) No. awaiting Institution admission	7
(b) No. attending Group Training Classes	19
(c) No. receiving Home Training	11
(d) No. in Remunerative Employment	40

There is an increasing tendency for those suffering from mental ill-health to be admitted in a voluntary fashion to mental hospital for treatment. On discharge if after care and assistance is necessary this can be supplied by the Social Worker, Miss Ball, who visits the patients in their homes. Miss Ball also supervises those Mental Defectives on licence from institutions and assists them in obtaining employment. The demands on the services of the Social Worker are becoming increasingly heavy.

For the Mental Defectives who are capable of benefiting by simple training, Group Training Classes are held at Centres in each of the Urban Districts. At present these Centres are held in the existing premises at Dunford House, Rock House and Barbers Avenue and whilst these premises are not designed for this purpose it is the best we can do in the circumstances. Plans are in being for the construction of an Occupation Centre at Wath upon Dearne but these have had to be held in abeyance due to active mining subsidence. Mrs. O'Leary resigned as an assistant Home Teacher at the end of the year. Mrs. L. Feasey, a fully qualified Mental Health Home Teacher, continued in charge of the group training. The children and adults attending continue to improve in social behaviour and some are becoming quite skilled in simple crafts. The position regarding admission of urgent cases to suitable institutions is greatly improved compared with previous reports but this improvement can only be maintained if more accommodation is made available and more candidates come forward for training as Mental Health Nurses.

CHILDREN LIKELY TO BE NEGLECTED OR ILL-TREATED IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

From time to time Health Visitors, Children's Officers and School Welfare Officers and other members of the Public report cases where investigation is called for in order to prevent child neglect. A number of such cases are kept under constant review. Liaison is maintained with the N.S.P.C.C. and all others interested in the welfare of children. The Divisional Medical Officer is the officer appointed for the co-ordination of this service. It was not found necessary to take any Court action in the division in 1955. The great majority of children are well cared for with the result that the neglected child appears unduly prominent.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Immunisation rate in school children is excellent and well above the ministry minimum of 75%. Consent is seldom refused in the case of school children. In the pre-school group of children the immunisation rate is poor and if there is an outbreak of Diphtheria in the area it is the pre-school children who will give us cause for concern. The highest mortality in the disease is usually in infancy ; all the more reason why the child should receive protection early.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

Number of Persons Vaccinated or Re-vaccinated during 1955.

Age at 31.12.55 <i>i.e.</i> , born in years	Under 1 1955	1—4 1951/54	5—14 1941/50	15 or over before 1941	Total
No. vaccinated :					
Wath	46	14	—	2	62
Swinton	24	1	2	5	32
Rawmarsh.. ..	77	5	1	2	85
No. re-vaccinated :					
Wath	—	—	—	—	—
Swinton	—	—	—	16	16
Rawmarsh.. ..	—	—	—	1	1

Protection by vaccination remains the only safeguard against this virus disease which as a rule has a mortality in the region of 30%. Owing to the rapid increase in the rate of travel it is likely that Smallpox will be introduced to the country from time to time. The best time to be vaccinated is in infancy when the complication rate is negligible. Subsequent re-vaccination in later life will then produce minimum disturbance and reaction.

There was an increase in the number of infants vaccinated in each of the three districts.

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

This is offered at all infant welfare centres to children under 4 years of age. Children should be protected in infancy at the third to the six month of age. The vaccine protects against severe attacks of the disease and in 75-80% prevents the disease from developing at all. This disease now causes more deaths and disability in infancy than any other infectious disease.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

There are 8,700 scholars on the school registers in the division. All are medically examined on entry to school, and since July, 1955, the 7-8 year group and on entry and leaving Secondary Schools. In cases where further examination is necessary this is arranged by appointment. Family Doctors are consulted before any scholar is referred to a Consultant School Clinic and are similarly notified of all Consultants' Reports.

Dr. C. Harvey, Paediatrician to the County Council, conducts regular Clinics at Barbers Avenue and the local Hospitals so that continuous specialist supervision is possible when required.

Dr. M. R. Menzies in addition to her work in the School Health Service is responsible for the ascertainment of the various categories of handicapped pupils and an increasing amount of time has to be spent on this every year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Urban District	No. of Children Immunised in 1955			No. of Children given booster doses during 1955	No. of Children Immunised at any time up to 31/12/55			Estimated Mid-Year Population			Percentage	
	Under 5 Yrs.	5—14 Yrs.	Total		Under 5 Yrs.	5—14 Yrs.	Total	Under 5 Yrs.	5—14 Yrs.	Total	Under 5 Yrs.	5—14 Yrs.
Wath	130	25	155	232	534	1958	2492	1175	2277	3452	45.4	86.0
Swinton	110	39	149	20	524	1751	2275	943	1892	2835	55.6	92.5
Rawmarsh	174	120	294	550	610	2841	3451	1601	3033	4634	38.1	93.7

School Clinics.

Ultra Violet Light	..	..	..	..	Wath and Rawmarsh.
Ophthalmic Clinics	..	..	..	..	Wath and Rawmarsh.
Child Guidance Clinic	..	..	..	..	Rawmarsh.
Paediatric Clinic	..	..	..	..	Rawmarsh.
Orthopaedic Clinic	..	..	..	..	Rawmarsh.
E.N.T. Clinic	..	..	..	..	Montagu Hospital.

Inspections of School Children, 1955.

Entrants	..	..	..	..	..	..	938
7-8 year group	..	..	..	..	..	..	532
Last year primary	..	..	..	..	..	..	478
1st year secondary	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Last year secondary	..	..	..	..	..	..	684
Other periodic	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
							2635
No. of Special Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	2654
No. of Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	886
							3540
Grand Total of Inspections carried out	..	..	..	..	..	..	6175

Cleanliness of School Children and Head Infestation.

	Total Children Infested	School Population	Percentage Infested
Rawmarsh and Parkgate	.. 332	3466	9.6
Swinton and Kilnhurst	.. 41	1563	2.6
Wath and West Melton	.. 89	2770	3.2

Comparative Figures.

	1954	1955	W.R.C.C. 1955
Total No. infested	.. .. 568	462	—
Total Children	.. .. 7603	7799	—
Total Percentage	7.5	5.9	4.5

Detailed Breakdown in Figures.

District			GIRLS			BOYS		
			No. Infested	Popula- tion	Percent- age	No. Infested	Popula- tion	Percent- age
Rawmarsh	..	..	233	1664	14.0	99	1802	5.5
Swinton	..	..	34	767	4.4	7	796	0.9
Wath	..	..	77	1338	5.8	12	1432	0.8
Division	..	..	344	3769	9.1	118	4030	2.9

The School Population is an average population for the year and excludes the Grammar School. There was an improvement in cleanliness throughout the whole Division in the course of the year.

Care of Handicapped Children.

Day School for E.S.N. Pupils	..	..	..	..	..	5
Residential School for E.S.N. Pupils	..	..	..	..	..	4
Hostel for Maladjusted Boys	..	..	..	..	..	—
Residential School for Deaf or Partially Deaf Pupils	..	..	..	..	..	6
Residential School for Deaf E.S.N. Pupils	..	..	..	..	..	1
Residential School for Partially-sighted pupils	..	..	..	..	..	2
Residential School for Blind Pupils	..	..	..	..	..	—
Residential School for Delicate Pupils	..	..	..	..	..	1
Residential School for Spastic Pupils	..	..	..	..	..	4
Orthopaedic Hospital School	..	..	..	..	..	—
						23
No. of children receiving Home Education	..	..	..	..	..	3
Total No. of children receiving Education other than at an ordinary school	..	..	..	..	..	26

TUBERCULIN JELLY TESTING OF SCHOOL ENTRANTS.

All School Entrants, whose parents have given written consent, have been jelly tested. The results are as follows :—

No. Tested		No. Positive		No. Negative	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
427	425	7	11	420	414

All positives have been notified to their respective Family Doctors and have been referred to the Chest Physician at the local Chest Clinic, with the exception of one case, resident in a neighbouring Division, who was referred to the School Medical Officer in that area.

None of the cases was found to be suffering from active Tuberculosis.

Details of Medical Examinations Carried Out for Various Authorities.

College Entrants examined	..	..	..	..	..	39
Teachers examined	..	..	..	..	..	6
Superannuation Examinations for (County)	..	..	..	..	..	11
Superannuation Examinations for (Local Councils)	..	..	..	..	..	1

Wath-upon-Dearne Urban District Council

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

For the year 1955

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wath-upon-Dearne Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year the following inspections were made :—

Nature of Inspection	No. of Inspections made
Houses for structural defects (housing inspections) ..	415
Houses re overcrowding	3
Premises re nuisances :	
Houses re vermin and insect pests	158
Drainage and sanitary conveniences	502
Dustbins and refuse accommodation	196
Offensive accumulations	31
Paving of yards and passages	15
Keeping animals	8
Filthy premises	16
Factories	3
Smoke observations	26
Visits re refuse collection	63
Visits re refuse disposal	53
Dairies and milk shops	4
Ice-cream premises	3
Food shops	88
Restaurants, canteens and other food preparing premises	4
Bakehouses	3
Slaughterhouses	12
Meat inspection visits	460
Hairdressers' Premises	15
Common lodging houses	5
Rats and mice inspections	71
Visits for sampling food, etc.	54
Inspection of caravan dwellings	3
Schools	1
Swimming baths	12
Visits re infectious diseases	28
Miscellaneous visits	96
Total	<u>2,348</u>

Complaints Received.

355 complaints were received at my office during the year. This number is 33 less than last year. The complaints have been classified as follows :

Nature of Complaint						Number of Complaints received
Choked or leaking drains	..	..	..	..	..	118
General housing defects	..	..	..	..	..	67
Defective sinks	..	..	..	..	..	3
Defective eaves, gutters and fallpipes	..	..	..	..	..	8
Smoke nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	8
Dilapidated dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	13
Defective sanitary conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	25
Defective yard and passage paving	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dirty Premises	..	..	..	..	..	7
Vermin and other insect pests	..	..	..	..	..	12
Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	5
Delay in dustbin emptying	..	..	..	..	..	18
Keeping of animal nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rats and mice infestations	..	..	..	..	..	41
Inadequate water supply	..	..	..	..	..	2
Burst water pipes	..	..	..	..	..	8
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	16
Total						355

Particulars of Notices served under Public Health Acts and West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

Number of written informal notices served during the year requiring nuisances and housing defects to be remedied	..	211
Number complied with	..	140*
Number of verbal intimations given	..	158
Number complied with	..	132*
Number of statutory notices served re nuisances (excluding housing repairs)	..	31
Number complied with by owner or occupier	..	14*
Number of statutory notices served requiring housing defects to be remedied	..	17
Number complied with by owner	..	13*
Number of notices where work executed by local authority in default of owner	..	15*
Number of notices where works executed by owner after the institution of legal proceedings	..	4*

* Includes notices served prior to 1955 but complied with in 1955.

The statutory notices served during the year included notices under the powers contained in the Public Health Act 1936, section 24 (maintenance of length of public sewer), 39 (repair of drainage), 45 (repairs to

waterclosets), 75 (renewal of dustbins), 93 (abatement of nuisances), 103 (smoke nuisances), and under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act 1951, section 53 (cleansing of choked drains).

Nature of Defects remedied under Public Health Acts.

Choked drains cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	119
Drains reconstructed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Watercloset fittings repaired or renewed				..	..	..	48
Additional waterclosets provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sink waste pipes renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sinks renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Hot water cylinder renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dustbins renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Keeping of animal nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dirty and/or verminous premises cleansed				..	..	..	6
Insect pest infestations cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Rodent infestations cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Yards and passages paved	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Chimney stacks repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Chimney pots renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Smoke nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Eaves, gutters and fallpipes renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Fractured walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Walls re-pointed	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Window frames repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Window fasteners renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Doors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Miscellaneous defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

HOUSING.

Repair and Maintenance.

The duties carried out in relation to privately owned dwelling houses consisted mainly of ensuring attention to the more serious housing defects. There are far too many houses in the District in respect to which the standard of repair and maintenance is too low. The structural damage caused to buildings by the prolonged seepage of rainwater from leaking roofs and defective eaves gutters and rainwater pipes into the walls and ceilings appears not to be always realised. The old proverb, "A stitch in time . . ." is applicable to defects of this nature, yet in some cases pressure has had to be exerted on the owners and their contractors for many months in order to obtain the necessary repairs.

Slum Clearance.

Little progress was made in slum clearance and the action taken was confined to dealing with a few houses which had become so dangerous

or dilapidated as to render essential the immediate vacation of the premises by the occupants.

At the end of the year, a report was presented to the Housing and Planning Committee, listing 41 houses which it was suggested, should be considered for inclusion in the first year's programme for slum clearance. The list was approved by the Council in principle.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Applications for certificates of disrepair were received from the tenants of 8 dwelling houses. In each instance an inspection of the house was made and a report presented to the appropriate Sub-Committee. Certificates of Disrepair were granted to all the applicants.

One application for the Revocation of a Certificate of Disrepair was received and granted during the year.

Housing Statistics for the Year are as follows :

Number of dwelling houses in district	4625
Number of back-to-back houses included in above	14
1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	121
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	415
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	5
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	17
(3) Number of dwelling houses needing further action :—	
(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above), found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	100
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.	
(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	Nil
(b) Number of defective dwelling houses (excluding those shown in (a) above) in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	46
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Acts, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs ..	Nil

(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	13
(b)	By Local authority in default of owners ..	Nil
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation	3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(4)	Action under sections 10 and 11 of Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—Closing Orders made	1
D.	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

New Houses.

4.	Number of new houses provided during the year :	
	By Local Authority : Permanent type	52
	Temporary type	Nil
	By Private Enterprise	15
5.	Housing Act, 1949.	
	Any action in connection with :	
	(a) Section 4—Advances for purpose of increasing accom-	
	modation	Nil
6.	Housing Act, 1949, as amended by Housing Repairs and	
	Rents Act, 1954.	
	Grants for improvement of housing accommodation :	
	Grants have been made during the year, principally in	
	connection with the provision of hot water supply and	
	bathroom accommodation in existing houses.	

Sanitary Accommodation.

The following table shows the number of dwelling houses and other buildings in the five Wards of the District and the sanitary accommodation provided thereat :—

Ward	Dwelling Houses	Dwelling Houses with Shop (Included in Col. 1)	Shops and Factories	Miscellaneous Buildings	Privies	Water Closets	Fixed Ashpits		Dustbins	Cesspools	Slop Closets	Chemical Closets
							Wet	Dry				
Central ..	1611	46	51	40	8	2353	6	11	1662	6	—	7
East ..	729	33	17	15	19	851	8	1	744	5	—	4
Wharncliffe ..	791	26	28	16	—	945	—	1	862	1	—	—
Winterwell ..	644	42	26	15	2	742	1	2	678	1	1	—
Melton ..	850	27	23	18	—	929	—	4	867	2	—	—
Totals ..	4625	174	145	104	29	5820	15	19	4813	15	1	11

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

No licence to erect, station or use a moveable dwelling in the District was issued during the year. The use of two caravans as dwellings was discontinued during the year, and no new applications were received.

Cleansing of Dirty and Verminous Premises.

Year by year there appears to be a gradual improvement in the condition of dwelling houses so far as verminous conditions are concerned. This is probably due to a better standard of cleanliness, improved housing accommodation, less overcrowding and the improved insecticides now available for use.

Four houses were dealt with for infestation by bed-bugs, and four for serious infestation by cockroaches, the premises being treated with suitable insecticides. In addition many occupants of infested premises are assisted by advice, information and the supply of suitable insecticides.

The furniture and household effects belonging to three families were fumigated with hydrogen cyanide gas on removal from old infested houses to new Council houses.

Control of Insect Pests.

The Sanitary Inspector's Office appears to be the appropriate department for receiving and dealing with complaints relating to such insect pests as moths, bees, wasps, caterpillars, etc., although probably they do not in many cases come strictly within a local authority's duties.

There appears to be an increasing call for advice and assistance in connection with infestations by the clothes moth, and it may be that this arises from the extension of Council housing schemes with better furnishings including fitted carpets and with more rooms and clothes cupboards which are not put to the same intensive use as in the smaller older houses years ago.

Advice, and where practicable and necessary, some assistance is given so as to abate the nuisance or annoyance caused by such insect pests.

Rodent Infestation Control.

A Council employee is engaged for part of his time as a rodent operator and undertakes the treatment of premises for the destruction of rats and mice. Where infestations exist in dwelling house premises including the gardens and allotments belonging to such dwelling houses, the treatment is carried out without charge. In the case of shops, factories or other business or trade premises, a charge is made to cover the cost of any treatment which the occupier requests the local authority to carry out.

Because test baiting of the sewers during the past few years indicated little or no rat infestation of the sewers in the District, the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food agreed to exempt the Council from the need to test bait the sewers for a

period of two years. The sewers were not therefore subject to test baiting during 1955.

The following table records the work carried out during the year :

Type of Premises	Rats—Number of Properties :			Mice—Number of Properties :		
	Inspected	Found to be infested	Treated by L.A.	Inspected	Found to be infested	Treated by L.A.
Local Authority Depots, etc. . .	6	6	6	1	1	1
Dwelling Houses . .	44	35	35	6	6	6
Business premises . .	10	8	7	4	4	2
Totals	60	49	48	11	11	9

Atmospheric Pollution.

Although the Council have not set up apparatus for measuring and recording the degree of atmospheric pollution in the area, it is obvious that considerable pollution occurs from both industrial and domestic premises.

Smoke emission from boiler chimneys at the two collieries and four or five factories, railway engines, coke oven plants, steam cranes and other miscellaneous chimneys in the industrial zone was considerable. Perhaps it is fortunate for residents in this District that industry is confined mainly to one part of the area which is so situated that prevailing winds tend to carry the smoke and fumes from industrial sources away from our own District.

The smoke nuisance from one colliery chimney, which for years has been notorious for the amount of dense black smoke emitted, was much reduced during the year as a result of the substitution of electric winding for steam winding at the colliery concerned.

The considerable increase in constructional work at present proceeding in the industrial zone gives rise to some concern as to the amount of increase in pollution which will occur from the new coke oven and other plant now in course of erection.

The relatively clean condition of the air in the summer months when domestic smoke emission is at a minimum is an indication of the improvement which could be effected by the abolition of domestic smoke. If every householder could be persuaded to install for use during the summer months such smokeless fuel appliances burning gas, oil, electricity or solid smokeless fuel, as are necessary for domestic cooking, washing, and the small amount of room heating required, it would be an important step forward in the campaign to reduce domestic smoke. Publicity to this end would make householders more smoke abatement minded and would engender the habit of using smokeless fuels in the home.

The following Tables give particulars of the number of inspections made and action taken during 1955 :—

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948. Part 1 of the Act of 1937.

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of :		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	5	3	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	3	3	—
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	6	—	—	—
Totals	45	6	3	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Premises	Number of cases in which defects found :				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	1	—	—	—

Hairdressers and Barbers.

Persons carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber, and the premises at which the business is carried on, must now be registered by the local authority.

Efforts have continued during the year to bring all such premises to a reasonable standard. Two new businesses were commenced during the year. In the case of one of these, the premises and the equipment installed were excellent ; in the other case the premises were not of the most suitable type for such a business but were equipped to comply with the minimum standard laid down by the Council.

Two businesses were discontinued during the year, the premises concerned in one instance being unsatisfactory by reason of lack of space and lack of drainage facilities.

The Council have not yet made byelaws with respect to hairdressers' premises.

Public Baths.

Sixteen samples of water were taken from the public swimming bath and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, the results being as follows :

Sample No.	Probable Number of Coliform bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37°	Probable Number of Faecal Coli.	p.H. Value	Free Chlorine in 1,000,000 parts water
1	9 per 100 ml.	6 per 100 ml. (B. coli type I)	—	—
2	—	—	8.6	0.5
3	2 per 100 ml. (B. Aerogenes type I)	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
4	—	—	8.2	0.5
5	0 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
6	—	—	7.6	Not tested for free chlorine
7	0 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	
8	—	—	7.6	1.0
9	0 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
10	—	—	7.8	0.4
11	0 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
12	—	—	7.8	0.4
13	0 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
14	—	—	7.7	0.5
15	0 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.	—	—
16	—	—	7.6	0.5

Samples Nos. 1 and 3 were taken at a time when the swimming bath was thronged with bathers. The baths were not so busy when the remaining samples were taken, and in order to give a true picture of the bacteriological standard of swimming bath water, as maintained during the summer season, it would appear necessary for laboratory facilities to be available to deal with samples obtained at peak periods, e.g. Saturday afternoons.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Milk and Dairies.

The whole of the milk sold in the District is designated milk, being either "Pasteurised," "Tuberculin Tested" or "Sterilised" milk.

Two producer-retailers, one with farm premises inside the District and the other with farm premises outside the District, deliver "Tuberculin Tested" milk bottled at their own farms.

The remaining milk supply, mainly "Pasteurised" or "Tuberculin Tested," is delivered by 9 registered distributors who retail bottled milk which has been supplied from the large dairies operating pasteurising plants. In addition, 18 shopkeepers were registered for the sale of "Sterilised" milk from their shop premises.

The main complaint in relation to the present system of retail delivery of milk in bottles, is the neglectful treatment of the empty bottles by many

members of the public generally and by some milk retailers and roundsmen. Empty bottles are permitted to lie about in yards, gardens, factory sites, building sites, etc., for long periods and to become thoroughly dirty. There is no guarantee that such dirty bottles can be efficiently cleansed by the milk bottle washing machines and there is therefore a risk of milk being filled into dirty bottles.

Some retailers still fail to use proper dairy accommodation for the storage of bottled milk, milk crates and empty bottles.

The number of licences issued during the year for the sale of designated milk was as follows :—

Designation of Milk	Type of Licence	Number of Licences Granted
Sterilised	Supplementary	3
Pasteurised	Supplementary	4
Tuberculin tested	Supplementary	3
Sterilised	Dealer's	19
Pasteurised	Dealer's	9
Tuberculin tested	Dealer's	6

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Thirteen samples of milk were purchased during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, and the results are tabulated below.

Sample No.	Date of Sampling	Grade of Milk	Methylene Blue Test Decolourisation Period	Phosphatase Test L.B.U. Reading
530	9 6 55	Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled)	N	—
531	9 6 55	Pasteurised	N	1.7
532	9 6 55	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	N	1.6
533	9 6 55	Pasteurised	N	1.8
534	9 6 55	Pasteurised	N	1.6
535	27 6 55	—	N	1.8
536	27 6 55	—	4½ hours	56
541	23 11 55	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	N	1.7
542	23 11 55	Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled)	N	—
543	23 11 55	Sterilised	N	—
544	23 11 55	Pasteurised	N	1.7
545	23 11 55	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	N	1.9
546	23 11 55	Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled)	N	—

The 11 samples of bottled designated milk were purchased from the dealers when the milk was in course of delivery to the consumer, and were all reported to be satisfactory upon examination at the Public Health Laboratory.

Samples Nos. 535 and 536 were bottles of milk which did not bear any label or mark indicating that the milk was designated milk. Sample No. 536 did not satisfy the Methylene Blue Reduction Test or the Phosphatase Test and did not therefore comply with the requirements of the regulations for either designated raw milk or heat treated milk. In accordance with the powers contained in section 19 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950 as applied by the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1953, legal proceedings were instituted by the West Riding County Council and the dealers were jointly fined £10 for failing to use a special designation in relation to the sale of those two bottles of milk.

Biological Examination of Milk.

Twelve samples of milk were taken at dairy farms and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for test for the presence of tubercle bacilli. One sample was not tested, the remainder gave negative results.

Slaughterhouses and Inspection of Meat.

Three slaughterhouses were licensed for use but only two were used during the year. The provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations were borne in mind when renewal of the licences was under consideration. Special attention was given to meat inspection to ensure that as far as possible every carcase was inspected before removal from the slaughterhouse. Post-mortem inspection of the animals slaughtered is carried out in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Ministry of Food Memorandum 3/Meat. An Inspector from Dearne Urban District Council again undertook the meat inspection duties during the two weeks I was absent from the District.

The slaughterhouses although not ideal, have generally been well maintained and a good standard of hygiene practised in relation to the dressing of carcases and storage of meat. It is probably quite true to say that the standard of hygiene at these slaughterhouses during the year was as high as in any large public slaughterhouse or abattoir.

Particulars of animals slaughtered and inspected, and fresh killed meat condemned for the year ended 31st December, 1955 :

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	273	396	3	1328	1019*
Number inspected	273	396	3	1133	1018*
All Diseases except tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	18	39	—	11	27
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44	187	—	—	44

*Figures include 18 pigs slaughtered on behalf of cottagers either at licensed slaughterhouses or on unlicensed premises.

Total weight of fresh killed meat and offals condemned 7,335 lbs.

Slaughter of Cottagers' Pigs.

The number of cottagers' pigs slaughtered has declined considerably since 1953, and particularly since the issue by the Council at the end of 1954, of particulars of the requirements of the Food and Drugs Acts, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, and Byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping, delivery and sale of food, which would be enforced in relation to the slaughter of such animals and sale of carcase meat or offal arising therefrom. Because of the lack of satisfactory premises and facilities it is very difficult for a cottager to comply with a satisfactory standard of hygiene.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

Seventeen licences were in operation during the year, which the Council had granted authorising the holders to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse. Twelve licences were renewed when they expired on the 30th September, 1955, four new licences were granted, and one licence lapsed during the year.

Eleven persons hold licences mainly for the purpose of enabling them to slaughter cottagers' pigs occasionally ; the remaining six persons undertake slaughtering at the licenced slaughterhouses.

Humane methods of slaughter were practised, using the captive bolt pistol, both in relation to cottagers' pigs slaughtered on unlicensed premises, and other animals slaughtered in licensed slaughterhouses.

There are no premises licensed for the slaughter of horses, or for use as knackers yards, in the District.

Inspection of Other Foods.

The following foodstuffs were condemned at foodshops :—

Articles of Food	No. of Cans, Jars, Bottles or Packets	Weight (Lbs.)
Canned meat	41	75 $\frac{3}{4}$
Canned fish	16	17
Canned milk	16	30
Preserves	19	19
Canned vegetables	257	305
Canned fruits	90	120
Sauce and pickles	6	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Canned soup	7	7
Canned cream	1	$\frac{1}{2}$
Rice	—	2
Macaroni	166	166
Coffee Essence	1	$\frac{1}{4}$
Ox tongue	—	3
Bacon	—	635 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sausages	—	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese	—	124 $\frac{1}{2}$
Butter	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Boiled ham	—	5
Codfish	—	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meat Paste	—	$\frac{1}{4}$
White vinegar	1	$\frac{1}{2}$
Gravy powder	16	2
Totals	637	1582 $\frac{1}{2}$

All unsound food was surrendered by the owners, and was collected and destroyed by the local authority.

Hygiene of Food Premises.

628 visits were paid to food shops, canteens, bakehouses, slaughter-houses and other premises at which food is sold or prepared for sale. The need for a much higher standard of hygiene in many of these premises, with improvements in the structural condition of the buildings, their design, layout, and equipment in addition to the improvement of personal hygiene by food handlers, is apparent.

Every opportunity was taken to secure such improvement. A course of lectures in Food Hygiene was arranged in co-operation with the Rockingham Institute of Further Education. The course was principally arranged for Assistants in shops and other food premises, but managers and proprietors of food businesses also attended. The course consisted of 8 weekly lectures each of one hour's duration. Films, film strips and other visual aids were used. The lectures went into some detail in order to explain the principles underlying the hygienic practises required in the food trades. The course was well attended and there is no doubt that attendance at a suitable course of training in food hygiene should be included in the preliminary training of all who enter employment in the food trades.

The need for an improvement in the general standard of hygiene in food premises was shown by the number of complaints received of contaminated food, and the prosecutions taken in connection therewith. During the year legal proceedings were instituted in relation to the sale of a loaf of bread containing splinters of wood, a loaf of bread containing the maggot of the flour moth, and a bottle of lemonade contaminated with paraffin or petrol. Complaints were also received of flies in vinegar, grubs in chocolates and string in teacake, and warnings to the vendors were issued in these cases.

Ice Cream Samples.

Sample No.	Sample Obtained from Shop or Vehicle	Result of Methylene Blue Test. Period of Decolourisation	Provisional Grade	Remarks on Type of Pack
116	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Wrapped block
117	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
118	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
119	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
128	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
129	Shop	Decolourised in 2½ hours	2	Unopened tub
130	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
131	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
137	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
138	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
139	Cinema	Not decolourised	1	Unopened tub
140	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Wrapped block
141	Shop	Not decolourised	1	Wrapped block

Ice Cream Premises.

Most of the ice cream sold in the District is pre-packed ice-cream stored in continuous freezing cabinets and sold from food shops which have been inspected and registered for the purpose of selling this com-

modity. No particular difficulties were met with and the conditions under which ice cream is stored and sold from shops appears now to be satisfactory. Three shops were newly registered during the year bringing the total number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream to 32.

Imitation Cream.

Attention was given during the year to the bacteriological quality of the imitation cream which is prepared in bakehouses for use in cakes and confectionery and 11 samples were obtained and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, the following reports being received :

Sample No.	Date Sample Taken	Type of Sample	Report		
			Plate Count (per gramme)	Coliforms	Pathogenic Organisms
110	10 2 55	Imitation Whipped Cream	1,200,000	Non faecal coli in 0.01 ml. B. aerogenes type I	None isolated
111	10 2 55	do.	1,500,000	Non faecal coli in 0.01 ml. Intermediate type I, Irregular other type	None isolated
112	10 2 55	do.	1,250	None isolated	None isolated
113	10 2 55	do.	7,500	Non faecal coli in 0.1 ml. Intermediate type I	None isolated
122	23 6 55	do.	2,350,000	Faecal B. coli I in 0.001 gm.	None isolated
123	23 6 55	do.	3,900,000	Non faecal coli in 0.0001 gm. Bact. aerogenes I irreg. VI.	None isolated
124	23 6 55	Bun containing imitation cream	5,000,000	Faecal coli in 0.001 gm. B. coli I	None isolated
125	23 6 55	Imitation Whipped Cream	80,000	Non faecal coli in 0.01 gm. Intermediate type I	None isolated
126	23 6 55	do.	1,000,000	Non faecal coli in 0.1 gm. Irreg. type VI	None isolated
133	18 10 55	do.	1,500,000	Non faecal coli in 0.25 gm. B. Aerogenes type I	None isolated
135	18 10 55	do.	3,500,000	Faecal B. coli type I in 0.1 gm.	None isolated

Samples Nos. 122, 124 and 135 were considered to be particularly unsatisfactory as the reports indicated the presence of faecal B. coli. Steps were taken generally at the bakehouse premises concerned to secure improvement in the cleanliness in handling, and preparation of the imitation cream, sterilisation of equipment, and cool storage of any quantity of the imitation cream during the periods when it was not actually required for use in the bakehouse.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

There are no particular developments to record in connection with the work of refuse collection and disposal.

For some years it has not been possible to maintain the accepted standard of a weekly collection of refuse from dustbins, and the year under review has been no exception, indeed the situation was worse than in previous years. The District is divided into two "rounds." On one "round" the dustbins were emptied 43 times and on the other "round" 31 times during the year. The intervals between collections varied from 8 days to 19 days.

The service is by no means as regular and frequent as it was during the war years. The failure to give a better service in peacetime appears to be due to a number of reasons. There is a considerable increase in the bulk of refuse now put out for collection which arises from the modern tendency to pack foodstuffs and many household articles ; also the modern fireplaces and heating arrangements are less suitable for burning refuse than the old fashioned kitchen range with its ample fireback ; more refuse therefore finds its way into the dustbin. There is also much more absenteeism among the staff employed in the work. This gives rise to delay in collections, dustbins become full and overflowing and consequently the time required for emptying the dustbins and handling excess refuse is increased so that delay is cumulative. Frequent changes in the staff employed, absence due to sickness, holidays, etc., are other causes of delay.

Refuse Disposal.

All the refuse collected was disposed of at the Wet Moor Lane tip with the exception of salvage materials which were dealt with at the Skin Yard Depot. The change in the housing conditions in the District and the habits of the population have an effect on the work of refuse disposal which has become increasingly noticeable. The increase in the number of modern houses on housing estates has resulted, during the summer time, in much more garden refuse and other soft bulky material being deposited at the tip, and a much reduced quantity of ashes, cinders and similar dense and heavy refuse. The tip has therefore been more difficult to consolidate and control so as to maintain it suitable for it to be traversed by the vehicles using the tip.

The following statements with respect to the work done in the collection and disposal of refuse, the income and expenditure incurred, refer to the year ended 31st March, 1956.

Refuse Collection.

Type of Receptacles Emptied	No. Emptied	No. of Loads of Refuse
Dustbins	197,240	2,227½
Dry ashpits	135	16
Privy ashpits	11	1
Trade refuse bins	1,584	32
Waste paper and cardboard	—	184
Total No. of loads collected . . . . .	.. .. .	2,460½

Refuse Disposal.

House and trade refuse delivered at tip	2,276 $\frac{3}{4}$	loads
Refuse delivered at tip by private owners	60	„
Refuse delivered at tip by Engineer and Surveyor's Department.	601	„
Salvage from shops delivered to Skin Yard Depot ..	184	„
Total number of loads disposed of	3,121 $\frac{3}{4}$	„

Sale of Salvage.

Materials Sold	Weights			
	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Waste paper	118	1	2	13
Textiles	2	12	1	6
Non-ferrous metals	—	9	3	2
Ferrous metals	9	4	3	6
Miscellaneous	—	—	1	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Totals	130	8	3	16 $\frac{1}{2}$

Expenditure and Income.

Details of expenditure and income are as follows :—

Expenditure				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Refuse collection .. ..	..	..	..	6483	7	4			
Refuse disposal .. ..	..	..	..	1209	2	8			
							7692	10	0
Income									
Sale of salvage .. ..	..	..	..	1344	9	11			
Trade refuse and tip charges .. ..	..	..	..	32	5	8			
Rents .. ..	..	..	..	4	1	8			
							1380	17	3
Net cost of refuse collection and disposal							6311	12	9

The net cost of collection and disposal of refuse per 1,000 houses during the year ended 31st March, 1956, was £1364 13s. 4d., compared with £653 11s. 7d., for the year ended 31st March, 1939.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council and the Medical Officer of Health and other officers for the support they have given to the work of the Department during the year, and to all members of the Council's staff for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. WILKINSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

